

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on June 29, 2005.

Claims 17-35 are pending before this amendment, claims 17, 19, 26, 29, and 30 have been amended, and claims 18, 20-25, 27, and 31-35 have been cancelled. Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 32-35 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 17-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Cran* (U.S. Patent No. 3,502,322) in view of *Capdeboscq* (U.S. Patent No. 4,614,512). Of the rejected claims, claims 17 and 29 are the only independent claims. Applicants have elected to amend independent claim 17 by introducing the subject matter of dependent claim 32, now cancelled, which the Examiner considered in the final Office Action to be allowable. Applicants have elected to amend independent claim 29 by introducing the subject matter of dependent claim 34, now cancelled, which the Examiner considered in the final Office Action to be allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe fees are dues in connection with filing this communication. If, however, any fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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